Maryland Council on Open Data

Meeting Agenda
September 15, 2017
10AM - Noon
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Introductions (10 mins)

Opening Remarks (10 mins)

News Items & Updates (60 mins)

- **Personnel Changes and Updates**
    - Newly appointed members of the council
        - Rob Livermore - Local County (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County)
        - David Zlowe - Private
    - Sonny Segal – Local County (Montgomery and Prince Georges County)
    - Elliot Plack – Previously appointed as local county representative. Re-appointed as Private representative
- **The Center for Data Innovation Report (http://www2.datainnovation.org/2017-best-states-data.pdf)**
    - Maryland ranks 3rd in overall score
    - Ranked #1st in enabling technology platforms
    - Ranked #1 in Open Data Portals
- Maryland Opportunities – How do we improve upon that ranking in the report?
    - **Question:** Can we reach out to the group to compile the report to talk about the information?
        - Yes, we can reach out to them to identify ways to improve
    - Connect with other states to discuss what they have been doing to make financial data available on a regular basis
    - **Question:** Where do these issues fall in priority for the State?
        - Transparency and accountability are important to the governor's office. Cost associated with getting the data out of certain legacy systems can be financially challenging and thus not able to be done quickly
        - It is important that the portal provides useful data to the public – not just large amounts of data.
        - Prioritize governance of data available to the public and how we provide and maintain quality data to the public
    - Are we overly concerned with the rankings? Are they important in meeting the mission of the Council or having the Open Data Portal? Or are we concerned about waste, fraud, and abuse? What is the driving factor to improve the ranking outside of ego?
    - Financial data is incredibly important in other states. Transparency allows businesses to understand what the differences are and who their competitors are.
    - We also need to keep in mind that the report references many studies that are a couple of years old. Progress has been made to address these areas since that time
    - **Question:** How do we better understand what data needs to be added to the Open Data Portal?

- Approach this by identifing what FOIA/PIA requests are coming from the public to the agencies to understand what the citizens priorities are?
- We should be pushing common PIA requests to the Open Data Portal, which is the direction each of these agencies have been given.
  - **Question:** Is there a centralized PIA request database for the state?
    - Each agency manages their own requests – there is no centralized database
    - This is a topic we have visited in the past, but could not get anyone/agency to take the lead role in organizing.
  - **Question:** Can we get a number the following information from the agencies:
    - Number PIA requests from years prior to moving data to the Open Data Portal and measure the increase or decrease in requests since making the data available?
    - Identify the number of PIA request by agency (manually vs what has be added to the Open Data Portal), and what the turnaround time looked like
    - The number of request and how that number has changed over time
  - **Question:** Have emails been included as part of the Open Data Portal?
    - Thus far, it's been handled as PIA

- Open Data Portals Statistics
  - Bounce rate question – if you search on MBE from google, it takes you straight to the dataset so that may account for the bounce rate
    - We will take a look at what the analytics include as far as direct bounce attribution based on a direct connection to dataset from google

- Dataset Freshness Report
  - Year to date update of the Data freshness
    - Reduction in out-of-data datasets from 182 to 20.
- Council Website – opendata.maryland.gov
  - Including consolidated links to existing data/portals similar to data page on MD iMAP
  - Add list of council members to webpage
    - Subcommittee to meet to discuss enhancement to the Council website

- Annual Report
  - Report due in January and we need to have draft by Thanksgiving
  - Include
    - New appointments and reappointments
    - The Center for Innovation Report
    - eMaryland Marketplace (eMM)
    - Council objectives and goals
    - Council Subcommittees
      - There have been a few small groups that have been established over the years
      - Should agency CIOs be required to attend?
      - Should by-laws be established?
        - Convene a small subcommittee to develop governance principles/structure to come back to the council for review and implementation

- - Subcommittee to include: Rob McCord, John Davis, David Zlowe, Robyn Lyles, Laura Vykol, Mike Morello, Laura Bruner, Patrick McLoughlin
  - What is our mission and high level goals? We can then have a discussion online to see what that gets us. (David) This determines do we want to vote, what are our responsibilities, etc.
  - Standards and documentation
  - Wrapping up our discovery phase of the council and now moving on to our second phase (beyond what is in the statute) and establishing the next set of goals

Open Discussion

Next Meeting:
December 15, 2017
10AM – Noon
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD
Conference Room, Side A, 1st Floor